## **City of Austin Mobility Report**

April 2025



**Monthly Highlights** 

# PROPERTY ACQUISITION CLEARS THE WAY FOR CITY TO BUILD NEW TRAIL SEGMENTS



The City of Austin will build a new segment of urban trail in Southeast Austin that will provide a new option for students biking or walking to Linder Elementary School.

Austin City Council approved the acquisition of a 5.4-acre property for \$1.34 million along Metcalfe Road and Burleson Road. In addition to expanding access as part of Austin's Safe Routes to School program, the trail will also expand access to Mabel Davis Park and improve the existing surface trail along Country Club Creek.

Funding for the acquisition comes from the Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection Department, Transportation and Public Works Department and Austin Water.

Austin City Council also approved a wastewater improvement contract for Country Club Creek at the March 27 council meeting. In addition to upgrading wastewater and water infrastructure, the project will also provide new surface greenbelt, lighting and concrete trails in the area.



#### THE CITY OF AUSTIN HOSTS AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE STAKEHOLDER MEETING



On Tuesday, March 25, the City of Austin held its second annual autonomous vehicle (AV) stakeholder meeting. This meeting brought together city, state and federal transportation officials, AV companies, first responders, transit organizations, mobility and accessibility advocates and university researchers to discuss how AV deployments are working in Austin and how to move forward to enhance the safety of Austin's mobility ecosystem.

Four AV companies showcased their vehicles: Volkswagen ADMT, Tesla, Waymo and Zoox.

The event also included two panels:

- Crowd Control: Ensuring Pedestrian Safety during Special Events
- Sustainability and AVs: A Look Ahead

As part of the Strategic Mobility Plan, the City seeks to maximize the benefits of emerging technologies by collaborating with stakeholders around innovation.

More information regarding Autonomous Vehicle operations in Austin can be found at <a href="https://exas.gov/page/autonomous-vehicles">AustinTexas.gov/page/autonomous-vehicles</a>.



Although cities in Texas cannot regulate AVs, Austin has worked with Autonomous Vehicle companies as they enter the market to offer staff's knowledge on the local transportation network to help AVs operate more safely. Austin's **AV Safety Working Group** includes representatives from the Transportation and Public Works Department, Police, Fire, EMS and the Airport. This group works with AV companies to share information about procedures; get training for first responders and AV companies; and gather data on AV deployments in Austin.

#### APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Driver Distraction is listed as the primary contributing factor in one out of six Austin traffic crashes that result in death or serious injury — and that's likely an undercount. Analysis from a national telematics service provider shows that nearly 70% of trips involve drivers interacting with their phone's screen.

Putting your phone in park while your vehicle is in drive is an easy way to save a life. Activate "do not disturb" before getting behind the wheel so you, your passengers and others can arrive safely!



#### It's as easy as 1-2-3:

- 1. Simply open the settings on your phone
- 2. Locate "Do not disturb"
- 3. Activate it before you get behind the wheel

Vision Zero is the Austin community's goal to reduce the number of people hurt or killed by crashes to zero through street improvements, policy changes, enforcement and education. For more on this effort, please visit our <u>Vision Zero page</u>.

#### IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE ALONG AIRPORT BOULEVARD



The City of Austin is improving Airport Blvd. from US 183 to North Lamar Blvd. as part of the Corridor Program, funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. These enhancements include improved pedestrian walkways, dedicated bike lanes, upgraded intersections, and smoother traffic flow. Our goal is to create a more accessible and active corridor for all.

#### Airport 'C1A': 55th Street to 45th Street

 Completion of Phase One work set for September. Including new shared-use paths, upgraded traffic signals and additional PHBs at 55th Street, Bruning Ave. and 51st Street. Phase two work brings a pedestrian signal at the intersection of Airport Blvd and Middle Fiskville Rd.

#### Airport 'C3': MLK Jr. Boulevard to MoKan Trail Bridge

 Project is moving forward on revised schedule. Work features bike and pedestrian improvements, including 10-foot continuous Shared-Use Paths on west side of Airport from MLK Blvd to Springdale Rd.



#### **Airport Boulevard Signal Improvements**

 Construction extending between N. Lamar to US 183. Phase two work includes design and upgrades of Accessible Pedestrian Signals at Manor Road are in progress, with construction anticipated to begin this year.

# CONSTRUCTION ON NEXT PHASE OF SOUTH LAMAR IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SUMMER 2025



Mobility, safety, and connectivity improvements are coming to South Lamar Boulevard between Riverside Drive and U.S. 290 as part of the Corridor Program, fund by the 2016 Mobility Bond. These improvements are expected to reduce vehicular delay, improve the effectiveness of transit, create continuous ADA-compliant sidewalks and continuous bicycle facilities along the entire length of the corridor.

#### SOLA 'C2': Barton Springs to US 290

 Project is in final design. Construction will consist of approximately three miles of corridor mobility improvements, including intersection improvements, like new and upgraded traffic signals, on S. Lamar Blvd. from Barton Springs Rd. to US 290.

### SOLA 'C3': W. Mary at Evergreen

Construction is anticipated for Summer 2025. Construction will occur at the intersections of W.
Mary St. and Evergreen Avenue - planned enhancements could include roundabouts and new
and/or upgraded bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



### **South Lamar Reconductoring Project**

Phase two construction began this month. Construction is expected to last one to two months
per phase, taking place in the right and left lanes, leaving the middle lane open for north and
southbound traffic flow.

# AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP ANALYZING FEEDBACK GATHERED FOLLOWING RELEASE OF PROJECT CONNECT DRAFT ENVIORNMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Austin Transit Partnership is currently consolidating and analyzing feedback gathered during the public comment period following the release of the draft environmental impact statement.

Some common themes heard were:

- Traffic impacts along Riverside Drive (between South First Street and Interstate 35)
- End of the line Park & Rides (at 38th Street & Guadalupe Street, South Congress Avenue & Oltorf Street and Riverside Drive & Yellow Jacket Lane)

Additionally, the Austin Transit Partnership is beginning stakeholder outreach along South Congress Avenue this month to talk about plans for that stretch of the Austin Light Rail alignment (Riverside Drive to Oltorf Street). City staff from Transportation and Public Works, Economic Development and the Project Connect Office will be involved. Topics will include:

- · Parking options
- Bike & pedestrian options
- Lane configurations

### **Community Resources**

<u>Weekly Mobility Newsletter Sign Up</u> <u>Upcoming Sidewalk Projects</u>

<u>Capital Projects Explorer</u> <u>Street Preventative Maintenance</u>

<u>Austin Mobility Data and Performance Hub</u>
<u>Special Event Road Closures</u>

<u>Austin-Bergstrom International Airport</u>